SMALL FARMERS ACCESS TO CREDIT: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TRIBAL AND NON TRIBAL HOUSEHOLDS OF CHAMBA (H.P.)

SYNOPSIS

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Vijay Kumar

(Enrollment No.: H14848)

Under the supervision of

Dr. Karan Thakur

Assistant Professor

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES
CAREER POINT UNIVERSITY HAMIRPUR
TIKKER (KHARWARIAN), BHORANJ
HAMIRPUR (HP)-176041, INDIA

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Introduction

Agriculture plays an important role in the process of economic development of the country. It provides food security as well as raw material to the non agriculture sector of the economy. It has also a unique role to provide employment and income in the economy. Agriculture is called the backbone of Indian Economy. After more than seven decades of political independence India is still a country of rural economy aprx. Sixty Eight percent of the Indian population is living in rural areas, where agriculture is playing a vital role in income and employment generation of rural people. It has contributed 18.8 percent in Gross Value Added (GVA), 13 percent of total exports and 42 percent of the workforce of the India (Economic Survey 2021-22).

The Indian agriculture sector has its own role in poverty alleviation, employment generation and insurance of food security of individuals and economic development at large. Recognizing the importance of the agricultural sector in India's development, the State framed a wide range of policies. Also these policies have been reviewed from time to time to maintain pace with the changing requirements of the agriculture sector, which forms an important segment of the priority sector. Food security for the livelihood of the nation can be ensured by the development in the Agriculture sector. Knowing the importance of the sector many efforts in this direction have intensified and today, govt. build a vast network to improve agriculture production, its marketing and distribution and also to improve farmer's lifestyle livelihood and earning. Also government paid special attention to improve the agriculture sector by adequate and efficient inputs to the sector. In the past, many policies have been framed and reviewed by the Government time to time keeping in view the essentiality of the sector.

Today commercial agriculture is the demand of the hour and the government is regularly working in the sector with technological advancement, improving Marketing space, helping to provide agriculture inputs, subsidies, farm insurance etc. to improve productivity and profitability in the sector. Productivity of agriculture is based on many factors such as size and ownership of land holding, supply of quality seeds, irrigation facility, fertilizers and pesticides, technology used in farming, availability of proper capital, labour and equipment. These are called the agriculture input. Timely and adequate availability of inputs is very vital for the productivity of the agriculture Sector. The Government policies also affect its productivity. A continuous and reasonable

investment for the improvement is required in the sector. A considerable amount is needed by the farmers to do the farming activity perfectly.

Agriculture Credit

Agriculture Finance is a fundamental component in farming. Agriculture finance means the finance provided by the farmers for the farming and allied activities carried out by him or her. For farming purposes both recurring and non recurring nature of capital is required by the farmers. Non recurring capital is invested in agriculture implements, tillers, tractors, equipment, expanding the farm size, etc. The recurring capital is repetitive i.e., seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, wage of daily labor, marketing etc. The farmers can collect finance for agriculture purposes from their own sources or from outside sources. For outside sources Institutional and non-institutional sources can be availed by the farmers for the financial input. The major Indian agriculturists are poor and have a low saving pattern so there is an immense need for the Agriculture credit. At present Indian farming is in a transformation stage so for the improvement a considerable investment is required and credit plays an important role in it. Agriculture credit has a vital role in facilitating adoption of new technologies in the agri. Sector. It provides proper capital to acquire farm inputs, productive assets, land, fertilizers, machinery etc. It also helps farmers to adjust their operation to keep up with the constant changes in this sector. Agriculture credit can be defined as the outside funds from an agency, bank, institution or individual or other made available to the farmers for farming activity or to purchase farming inputs. Due to low saving of Indian farmers and high cost of inputs, in Indian agriculture sector credit becomes an essential input along with modern technology to enhance the productivity of agriculture.

Types of Agricultural Credit

Agriculture credit can be classified on different basis, such as on the basis of uses, purpose, on the basis of time period, on the basis of Security, Lender wise classification and on the basis of the sources.

1. On the Basis of Purpose
    a. For Production function
    b. For Marketing Purpose
    c. For generation of Assets
    d. For nonfarm activity
2. On the Basis of uses
    a. Recurring Nature

b. Non Recurring Nature

3. On the basis of Time Period
   a. Short term
   b. Medium Term
   c. Long Term
4. On the basis of Security
   a. Farm Mortgage Credit
   b. Collateral Credit
   c. Personal Credit
5. On the basis of Sources
   a. Institutional Credit
   b. Non Institutional Credit

Importance of credit in agriculture

Credit plays a significant role in agricultural development. Agriculture credit is a vital input to the agriculture sector due to the unique role of Indian agriculture in the macro-economic framework and also its role in poverty alleviation. Agricultural development and growth are possible only when adequate capital and proper technology are used and credit is often a key element in the modernization of agriculture (Scobie & Franklin, 1977). As the saving of the Indian farmer is low and the investment is less. Agriculture credit is the main input for the transformation of agriculture. Not only does credit remove financial constraints for the agriculture but it also accelerates the use of new technology and advanced inputs in agriculture for its improvement. Finance for agriculture is an integral part for the process of commercialization of the Indian rural economy and making it profitable and development of farmer's livelihood.

Sources of agriculture credit

Institutional and non institutional sources for the finance for agriculture are the two sources availed by the farmers. Non institutional sources are family, friends, moneylenders etc. and for the institutional finance govt. build a broad vast network in India. A 3 tier system is used to distribute the agriculture finance in India which includes RRB, Cooperatives and Commercial Banks. RBI and NABARD provide the priority sector guidelines to the commercial bank for distribution of credit. Commercial banks, RRB, Cooperative with three tire system as in state, district and primary credit cooperative societies are there to remove indebtedness of the farmers by providing sufficient amount of credit.

Historical Background of Institutional finance for agriculture in India

Pre Independence

Institutional finance for agriculture may be stated to have started long back (1793) when the system of taccavi loan was introduced {Citation}. Earlier the finance was provided to the farmers through the department grants as well as a cooperative system. Agriculture finance was given priority by the government for the rural credit system. In the pre-independence period from 1870 British administration began to notice the problems in Indian agriculture, the agriculture finance strengthened it by passing Cooperative Societies Act 1904. New acts which provide legal recognition to credit society came into force in 1912. In 1930 with the adoption of 1915 Maclogan committee report 3 tier co-operative credit structure was established. At that time co-operatives was seen as premier institutions for disbursing agriculture credit to the farmers. Such credit had no explicit relationship with input or farm investment and was only seen as an alternative to the village moneylender. In the year of 1926-27 British govt. constituted the Royal Commission on Agriculture under the chairmanship of Lord Linlithgow to examine the Indian agriculture and rural economy. This commission suggested many suggestions to improve the cooperative movement. At that time 67000 agriculture primary societies were there in India as per their report (Kainth, 1998). With the passing of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, as central bank, specific provision for agriculture credit was made. Section 54 of the Act enjoined the Reserve Bank to set up an Agriculture Credit Department which was to have an expert staff to advise the central government, state governments, state cooperative banks, and other banks and to coordinate RBI functions for agricultural credit. Section 17 of the RBI Act provide power to disburse agricultural credit through Commercial bank, state cooperative banks or any other banks engaged in the business of agricultural credit (Mohan, 2006). With the passing of District Central Co-op. Banks Act and Land Development Banks Act, agricultural credit received impetus and there were improvements in agricultural credit distribution. The State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDB), which was then called the Land Mortgage Banks provided long -term loans for repayment of old debts.

Post Independence

After the independence plan, economic development started with the intention to improve productivity and economic development of the country. Institutional credit to the agriculture sector also takes priority in this plan development process. Through the five year plans, agricultural policy focused on raising public investment in this sector.

Institutional credit to the agriculture sector made phenomenal progress by passing suitable legislation and the formation of policies. In the year of 1951 All India Rural Credit survey committee was constituted by the RBI. It covered seventy-five districts around the country. Eight villages in each were chosen for the survey, which was based on a sample of fifteen households from each of the selected villages, with a view to recommend practicable policies for the future on rural credit. The survey was completed during November 1951 - July 1952, under the committee of Direction, headed by A. D. Gorwala. Dr. D. R. Gadgil was one of members of the committee. This committee present its recommendations in the year of 1994-55. In the main recommendations it recommended state participation in cooperatives at all levels, establishing long term operations fund by state to rural areas, Crop Loan System against anticipated crops, Linking of Credit with Marketing, formation of Central land mortgage bank, formation of cooperative structure, Training of personnel involved in this process. The Report also recommended the creation of the State Bank of India through the statutory amalgamation of the Imperial Bank of India and the major State associated banks to undertake an expeditious programme of banking expansion, particularly in the rural areas. Following this report considerable extension in rural credit facility was made, but developments were uneven over different local areas, and the credit requirements of agriculture increased very rapidly under the influence of Green Revolution. To full fill this purpose All-India Credit Review Committee was appointed by the governor of the Reserve Bank in July 1966 and to re-assess the situation and make detailed recommendations (Reserve Bank India, 1969) Committee submitted its Report in July 1969. This committee remarked the regional disparity in the disbursement of the credit by the institutions. This committee recommended constituting a vast institutional network to provide the rural credit, it suggested constituting Agricultural Credit Board in the Reserve Bank of India. With the passing of time after independence government builds a vast network of commercial banks, RRB, Cooperative banks and NABARD as apex body for the institutional credit to the agriculture sector. Government framed many committees from time to time to recommend the policy initiatives and review them. With the passing of the time and on the suggestions of the committees framed for agriculture sector many schemes were launched, some of them are nationalization of commercial banks, Establishment of RRB in 1976, Priority lending scheme in 1972, SHG-Bank Linkage programme 1992-93, Kisan Credit card Scheme introduced in 1998-99, Farm credit package in 2004, A Joint Liability Group (JLG) Scheme in 2005-06, Interest subvention

scheme 2006-7, Bank linkage program, farm insurance Scheme, doubling of farm income by 2022 schemes were launched by the government from time to time.

Existing Credit System in Himachal Pradesh

Agriculture in Himachal Pradesh is a lifestyle for the agrarian population and nearly 60% population is directly or indirectly dependent on this sector. Himachal Pradesh the total area of operational holdings is about 9.44 lakh hectares and is operated by 9.97 lakh farmers with an average holding size is about 0.95 hectare. Presently, farming and farmers of Himachal Pradesh are passing through a transitional phase, consisting of several factors and processes, which include both constraints and opportunities. The ongoing diversification drive has conclusively proved that economic prosperity of hill farmers lies in growing off season vegetables and production of fruits. This opportunity however is constrained by increasing input costs and impoverished soils. Farmers are looking for alternatives in view of ever increasing cost of synthetic inputs and poor input output ratio. The vegetable and fruit business of Himachal farmers can transform drastically by adopting organic farming. It is in these areas and for these commodities that certified organic tag or Himachal organic brand will be an important alternative option. This is a sustainable option for maintaining productivity of farm lands also. Agriculture is an important source of State Income (GSDP). About 13.62 percent of the total GSDP comes from agriculture and its allied sectors. To strengthen the agrarian economy of the State, 10 percent of the total State Budget is being spent on this vital sector. Banks have financed 3,92,757 farmers under KCC with an aggregate amount of 6,769.74 crore up to September, 2021. Under the Kisan Call Center scheme the farmers can get any information on agriculture by dialing toll free number 1800-180- 1551 between 6:00AM to 10:00PM. Under the Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) 41,333 farmers have been covered in the State. The amount of Premium shall be shared on 50:25:25 bases. Under the Horticulture Technology Mission the Government of India has approved an action plan of 43.08 crore. Essential commodities are being supplied at subsidized rates to all the ration card holders in the State so as to save them from the on- slaughter of rising prices.

Review of Literature

An evaluation of literature of the past is needed while conducting any research study. A structured theme based literature was collected and presented here. Agriculture credit is a wide subject of research and a number of researchers have studied the different aspects

of it in their study. The literature is classified as per the objective of the study in four parts. Firstly the Agriculture sector and credit as input in the agriculture sector has been discussed in it. In the second part source of borrowing, cost of borrowing and amount of borrowing and term of borrowing by the small farmers have been discussed. In the third part the utilization and effect of the credit on economic status of farmer's is discussed. In the fourth or last part, the factor influencing the access of the credit by the farmer has been discussed. Different sources, namely, Google Scholar, J-Store, Willy library, Research gate and others are used for to collect the previous literature of the study.

1. Studies related to the Agriculture Sector and Credit as input.
2. Studies related to the source of borrowing, cost of borrowing, amount of borrowing and term of borrowing by the farmers.
3. Studies related to the utilisation and effect of the credit on economic status of farmer.
4. Studies related to the factors influencing the access the credit by the farmer.

1. Studies related to the Agriculture Sector and Credit as input

Agriculture is a key element in the Indian economy. It is the only means of living for almost two-thirds of the employed class in India. As stated by the economic data of financial year 2006-07, agriculture has acquired 18 percent of India's GDP. The agriculture sector of India has occupied almost 43 percent of India's geographical area (Arjun, 2013). As discussed by Pathak, (2009) in their study Contribution of agriculture in the development of Indian economy concluded that this sector plays strategic role in the Economic development of the country, and Significant contribution in the economic prosperity had already made to the economic prosperity of a advance country and its role in the economic development of under developed country has vital for future development. It has also an important factor containing inflation, raising agricultural wages and for employment generation. Agriculture in India is presently facing a transformation phase. With modern technique, instrument and marketing the Capital is also a critical input of the sector. Agriculture required a considerable investment in the farm sector. As most of the Indian farmers are poor and have low saving capacity, so credit is an important instrument to fulfill the capital requirement of the farmers. In the study researchers Sivaiah & Naidu, (2015) have investigated the Need and importance of institutional finance for agricultural development which reveals that in the agriculture sector the productivity of Indian agriculture was low as compared to the productivity of global level. Godara et al., (2014) called Credit as one of the critical inputs for agricultural development. It capitalizes farmers to undertake new investments and/or

adopt new technologies. The importance of agricultural credit is further reinforced by the unique role of Indian agriculture in the macroeconomic framework along with its significant role in poverty alleviation. Agricultural credit may be defined 'as the amount of investible funds made available for the farm business and farmers' family needs'. In other words, agricultural credit means money borrowed for farm investment as well as seasonal agricultural operations (Mohan, 2008). Singh & Sagar, (2006) opined that agricultural growth depends on the growth of productivity that in turn requires a sufficient amount of capital. Farmers in most developing countries need more capital than they can afford to generate through their savings. At the time of independence, the co-operative sector and local moneylenders were the major sources of finance for agriculture. Since the inception of social banking in the late sixties, commercial banks significantly contributed to the growth of Indian agriculture. The banking sector also observed a variety of innovations over time to increase the credit to agriculture for overall development of the agriculture sector. But in India farmers who are the largest serving body have currently facing their epidemic of suicide. The Indian farmers were dependent on subsistence farming (Kiresur et al., 2010). Sidhu & Gill, (2006) said that the agricultural loans were considered to be economically unviable by rural financial institutions due to low rates of interest on them in the pre-reform period. Sharma & Prasad, (1971) stated that the introduction of latest technology without credit facilities would not have significant influence on the income of the agriculture farmers. Agriculture credit has a direct relationship with the income level of the farmer, farm productivity and agriculture development. Credit plays a crucial role in the agricultural sector to enhance the overall productivity of crops. Due to lack of capital farmers usually obtain low crop production, and credit is a capital alternative to enhance productivity in developing countries (Akmal et al., 2012). During sowing season, the majority of Indian Indians farmers, especially small and marginal ones, face financial crises which often leads them into the trap indebtedness ((Saxena, 2022). Farm credit as a critical input to Indian agriculture has an important and unique role in the macroeconomic framework and poverty alleviation (Golait, 2007). It has been reinforced by the unique role of Indian agriculture in the macro-economic framework and also its role in poverty alleviation. Credit plays a vital role in the agriculture sector. Agricultural development and growth are possible only when adequate capital and proper technology are used. Credit is often a key element in the modernization of agriculture (Scobie & Franklin, 1977). In the detailed study by Iqbal et al., (2003) Concluded the positive and significant impact of

institutional credit on agricultural production and agriculture GDP on the study on the Impact of Institutional credit on agriculture production in Pakistan. Again Kumar & Singh, (2007) confirmed it in Indian context in their study and concluded the perfect positive relationship between agricultural inputs and the level of production.

Type and sources of the agriculture credit

Indian farmers as per their farming requirement required 3 types of farmer loan, long term, short term and middle term. Tak & Tak, (2010) concluded that Indian farmers need mainly 3 types of loan, large term loan, medium term and short term loan. Institutional and non institutional sources are the sources of finance in this sector. Every institute has their different system. Study also suggests infrastructure development in institutions to improve them. The impact of the credit in the overall growth shown by the different researchers in previous study shows a positive relation. The main sources of the institutional direct credit to agriculture are Commercial Banks, RRB, Cooperative, RBI and NABARD plays a refinancing function in it. All these institutions have their own role in the field to distribute the credit. Hoda & Terway, (2015) discussed that for the institutional finance to agriculture sector in India a broad vast network was established. A 3 tier system is built to distribute the agriculture finance. NABARD and RBI provides the priority sector guidelines to the commercial bank for distribution of credit. Commercial banks, RRB, Cooperative with three tier system as in state level, district level and primary credit cooperative societies have a unique role to remove indebtedness of the farmers. Veerpaul & Amritpal, (2013) NABARD has taken over refinancing functions from the Reserve Bank of India with respect to State Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural banks. Tak & Tak, (2010) concluded in their study that Institutional and Non Institutional sources of credit are two sources for fulfilling the credit need of this sector. Institutional sources can be divided in two parts. First one who provided direct financing and second one who provided indirect finance. RBI and NABARD provided indirect finance for agriculture through the institutional credit. Commercial banks, RRB's, Co-operative bank organization with three tier set up, State Co-operative Bank as the apex co-operative institution in the state. Central or District Co-operative Bank works at district level, at the lowest level co-operative setup is Primary Credit Agency which works at village level providing the direct credit to the farmers. After 1991 there is a remarkable decline in the share of non institutional credit from around 30.6 per cent to about 29.7 percent and increased share of institutional credit in 2010 to over 68.8 percent which was 66.3% in 1991, increased share of institutional credit in 2010 to over 68.8

percent which was 66.3% in 1991. There was an increasing divergence between the growth trends of the total economy and of agriculture & allied sector (Dar, 2015)

2. Studies related to the source of borrowing, cost of borrowing and amount of borrowing by the small farmers

There are several studies that available who considered lending and borrowing costs of transaction in agriculture. Some of these focused on assessed the transaction costs, while others have focused on the effects of these costs on lenders and borrowers. (Adams, 1995) defined Borrowing costs as nominal interest payments, plus borrower loan transaction costs, plus changes in the purchasing power of money. The empirical studies done by researchers Adams & Nehman, (1979), Liedholm, (1985), Gamin, (1994) concluded that the relatively heavy transaction costs inhibit the access to credit by the small farmers. Hosseini et al., 2005 revealed in their study that the lack of credit availability resulted as high transaction costs. Borrowing costs in rural financial markets is one of the main concerns for researchers for examining the disbursements of credit to farmers in developing countries. According to Datta, (2003) credit is not an instantaneous contract like a spot market transaction, the contractual parties and especially the lender face adverse selection as well as moral hazardous problems that impose transaction costs upon them. The rate of interest is taken as the measure of cost of obtaining credit, for all practical purposes. However, the real cost of credit from financial sources goes up due to the fact that debtors have to spend considerable time and money by way of incidental charges in fulfilling the formalities required. According to (Adams, 1995) transaction costs in the financial markets include all the explicit as well as implicit costs participants incur in financial transactions excluding the interest payment, cost of fund and loan losses. Accounting Standard (AS) 16 defines the Borrowing costs as interest and other costs incurred by an enterprise or individual in connection with the borrowing of funds. According to this accounting standard it may include: (a) interest and commitment charges on bank borrowings and other short-term and long-term borrowings; (b) amortisation of discounts or premiums relating to borrowings; (c) amortisation of ancillary costs incurred in connection with the arrangement of borrowings; (d) finance charges in respect of assets acquired under finance leases or under other similar arrangements; and (e) exchange differences arising from foreign currency borrowings to the extent that they are regarded as an adjustment to interest costs. In the Study Borrowing Costs and the Demand for Rural Credit by Adams & Nehman, (1979) defined Borrowing costs as combination of three as the nominal

interest payments made to the lender, additional loan transaction costs incurred by the borrower, and changes in the purchasing power of money over the loan period. Borrower transaction costs mainly involve various charges imposed by lenders beyond payments as interest as discussed by Adams & Nehman, (1979) three kind of borrowing cost involved in cost from formal sources. First, loan charges collected by the lender beyond interest payments such as application fees, forced purchase of other lender services, service fees, bribes, compensatory balances and closing costs. Second negotiate cost for negotiation with someone outside the formal lending agency before a loan application formally reviewed. This individual may be an extension agent, a local official or leader, or a cosigner. Third Cost discussed was borrower's time and travel expenses spent by the borrower have to collect the formal loan. Credit disbursements have much significant relationship with cost of credit. The viability of Credit program depends on the determinants and consequences of the transaction costs of each institution, and the ability of practitioners to assess such costs prior to their incurrence (Bhatt & Tang, 1998)

Datey, (1978) made an effort to find the parameters of the real cost of agriculture credit and to make some preliminary estimates of costs. Study observed that the financial cost of agricultural credit consists of direct and indirect costs incurred by lenders in providing credit to farmers. Researcher defined direct costs as those reflected in the income and expenditure account of the lender, assuming no subsidies. Indirect costs incurred by government and its agencies in activities directly associated with credit operations. Researcher concluded that the average direct costs of formal sector agricultural credit in India appeared to range from about 16% to slightly more than 20% of loan amounts outstanding, yielding an all-India average estimate of 18%. Indirect costs are much more difficult to quantify, but probably approximate 1% of loan amounts outstanding, raising the overall financial cost of agricultural credit to an estimated 19%. Study also concluded that Larger farmers have greater effective access than smaller farmers to formal sector institutional credit. Adams & Nehman, (1979) focused on differences in borrowing costs among various types of formal borrowers. Study argues that these differential borrowing costs strongly affect the willingness of the rural poor to seek loans from formal lenders. In this Study author defined Borrowing costs as the nominal interest payments made to the lender, additional loan transaction costs incurred by the borrower, and changes in the purchasing power of money over the loan period. Three kind of borrowing cost discussed by the author first loan charges collected by the lender beyond interest payments such as

application fees, forced purchase of other lender services, service fees, bribes, compensatory balances and closing costs. Second negotiate cost for negotiation with someone outside the formal lending agency before a loan application formally reviewed. This individual may be an extension agent, a local official or leader, or a cosigner. Third Cost discussed was borrower's time and travel expenses spent by the borrower have to collect the formal loan. Hosseyni et al., (2012) made an attempt to assess the transaction costs of obtaining credit from formal and semiformal institutions in rural Iran. Study showed that the formal and semiformal institutions impose significantly different costs upon the rural loan applicants. Results reveal that contractual form, loan size, how far the borrower being away from the financial centre along with other borrower peculiarities are important determinants of transactions' costs. The average transaction cost per loan size was positively affected by the loan size. Borrowers who received larger loans incurred lower transaction costs per unit of borrowed money. The financing of rural households at low or no interest rates for special activities can become expensive once the transaction costs are taken into account. George et al., (1985) have studied the rural farmer's borrowing costs in Andhra Pradesh and found that average borrowing costs on crop and term loans are higher for marginal farmers than other categories. Also average borrowing costs from institutional sources was found to be higher on term loans than that on crop loans, but costs are higher on crop loans compared to term loans from non institutional sources. Sidhu & Gill, (2006) stated that in India, 84% of all farmer households are small and marginal cultivators who contribute less than 25% of the share of outstanding amount from formal sources. The poor credit delivery system, cost of borrowings, inadequacy of the staff in rural branches and low profitability of institutions, unable to access to formal credit to small and marginal farmers especially poor and illiterate farmers are incapable to access formal credit due to procedural and documentation requirements in India during 1970–1971 to 2000–2001. (kumar et al., 2020) revealed that the transaction cost in availing credit was more in formal sources in compared to informal sources. Among the formal sources, the total transaction cost incurred by farmers was highest in commercial banks followed by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Co-operative banks in all the three gradients. In rural gradient total transaction cost incurred by farmers was highest in commercial banks (Rs. 5395.26) followed by Co-operative banks (Rs. 3112.33) and RRBs (Rs. 1811.20) and it was lowest in case of informal sources of credit (Rs. 1140.27). Rent seeking cost was the major cost in transaction cost followed by cost of documents and opportunity cost of time spent in

all the gradients. Results of multiple regression analysis revealed that education, number of visits, total land holding and amount borrowed were the major factors significantly influencing the borrower's transaction cost.

3. Studies related to the utilization and effect of the credit on economic status of farmer's

Amanullah et al., (2020) made an attempt to determine the impact of credit constraints on farmers' welfare. The results show that credit constraints have a negative impact on farmers' welfare and income. The result also indicates that the welfare and income of credit-constrained farmers influenced by age, the interest rate, area of land, and family size. (Ogundeji et al., 2018) examined farmers' access to credit and its impact on farm income using a three-stage model, namely: Probit, Tobit, and propensity score matching. The study was conducted in that access to credit increases net farm revenues. Das et al., (2009) in their study showed the positive and statically significant impact and immediate effect on agriculture output of direct agriculture credit, indirect agriculture credit also had positive significant impact on agriculture output, but with a year lag. Even there were several gaps in the institutional credit delivery system like inadequate provision of credit to small and marginal farmers, paucity of medium and long-term lending and limited deposit mobilization and heavy dependence on borrowed funds by major agricultural credit purveyors, but agriculture credit was still playing a critical role in supporting agriculture production in India. Manoharan & Varkey, (2022) also confirmed it with secondary analysis in which Secondary data was collected from various sources for the selected states of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for the time period 1990–1991 to 2017–2018. This state level panel data was analyzed with Fixed Effect Model to establish the relationship between the agricultural credit and agricultural productivity which concluded that the direct agricultural credit and doubling of agricultural credit policy was a positive impact on productivity, whereas the indirect credit was a significant negative impact on productivity. Malik, (2021) see impact of agriculture credit on resource inputs use in Haryana. Primary data regarding this study were collected through a well structured questionnaire. At the end it was concluded that availability of credit led to more use of resource inputs ultimately which increased agricultural production. All these results collectively suggest that the agriculture credit facilitates the increase in use of various inputs and supports the changing face of the agriculture sector. So, for more and better

utilization of resource inputs strengthen flow of agriculture credit needed which would be helpful for the masses. Kumar & Singh, (2007) concludes that if the credit is utilized properly for the purpose for which it was sanctioned, its impact, that is, flow of benefits to the beneficiaries will help in improving their economic status. Study also showed a perfect positive relationship between agricultural inputs and the level of production. Kumar et al., (2017) investigated the relationship between institutional credit and the economic well-being of farm households in India. Study found statistically significant effects of institutional credit not only on net farm income but also on per capita household consumption expenditures. According to study formal credit played a critical role in increasing both the net farm incomes and per capita monthly household expenditures of Indian farm families. Kumar et al., (2020) empirically evaluated the impact of access to credit on the economic well-being of agricultural households in eastern India, the findings revealed that access to credit increased the economic well-being, and farmers availing credit from formal sources have better off than those availing credit from informal sources. The results also showed the strong association of credit access with the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of agricultural households.

4. Studies related to the factor influencing the access of the credit by the farmer

Many studies have made the contribution to identify factors that influence the farmers access to credit (Sarap, K., 1990), (Shela&Saf, 2007), (Nwaru et al., 2011), (Adegbite, D.A. and Adeleye, O.A., 2011), (Kumar, A., at al. 2015), (Kumar, A., 2017), (Aditya, K.S., et al. 2019), (Khan, M.N.H. 2020), (Kumar, A., et at. 2020), (Zulfiqar, F., et at. 2021). Also attempts have been made to identify the factors responsible for access to credit by the small and marginal farmers (Roy, T.N., 2017), (Elias, S., Ahmad, I.M. and Patil, B.L., 2015). Many factors are responsible for the access of the credit by the farmers. Different literature for this is discussed at a large level. There are different factors that have relation with access to the credit by the farmers. (Sarap, 1990) analyzes the factors inhibiting small farmers' access to formal credit, which includes credit supply, bargaining strength, bureaucratic formalities, asset-based lending policies, informal tenancy contracts, extended processing procedures and caste barriers. This study confirms a correlation between higher overall transaction costs and smaller farm size, and also between arrearages and larger farm size. Kumar et al., (2015) found that the rural households' access to institutional credit is influenced by a number of socio-economic, institutional and policy factors, the education, caste affiliation, gender and

assets ownership have been found to influence the rural households' access to institutional credit significantly. Kayamo & Ahmad, (2015) in their study tries to find those factors which are responsible for access to agricultural credit from banks by the small and marginal farmers. The age, gender, level of education, family size, landholdings, irrigation facilities, income level, marital status and occupation are considered as determinants of access to agricultural credit. Out of these variables landholdings, educational status, irrigation facilities, income level and gender are found to be the significant factors in determining the agricultural credit access of the small and marginal farmers from the banks. The access to credit is strongly associated with the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of agricultural households as confirmed by the (Kumar et al., 2020) in their study they revealed that half of the farmers in the eastern states of India lack access to institutional credit despite the government's attempts to include them in the ambit of formal financial services. Thus, strategies for developing agriculture in India must include efforts to bring small and marginal farmers under the coverage of institutional credit. Kumar, A., (2017) again confirm this and concluded that the Rural households' access to institutional credit is influenced by a number of socio-economic, institutional and policy factors they remarked the result that the education, caste affiliation, gender and assets ownership have been found to influence the rural households' access to institutional credit significantly. (Zulfiqar et al., 2021) revealed that formal education, farm size, level of farm mechanization, farm revenue and landholding size have positively and significantly influenced access to agricultural credit while the age of the farmer's, distance, and off- farm income negatively and insignificantly influenced farmer's accessibility to agricultural credit. (V and S., 2018) discussed that social groups are an important variable on access to credit. Study on the title 'Access to Formal Credit in the Indian Agriculture: Does Caste matter' analyze the access to credit by social groups and decomposes the gross credit differentials using Oaxaca-blinder decomposition method using unit-level data from the All India Debt and Investment Survey, NSSO, 2013.The descriptive analysis clearly shows a significant credit differential between forward caste (FC) and other social groups (SC, ST and OBC). Access to credit was shown varies across social groups. Aditya et al., (2019) aims to analyze the correlates of choice of source of credit and amount of institutional finance from surveys of rural households in eastern India. The study uses primary data of 2,641 rural households across Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. Cragg's double hurdle model, which accounts for endogeneity between amount of formal finance

borrowed and access of households to formal credit, is used to simultaneously identify the correlates of access and amount of formal credit. The results of the exponential double hurdle model indicate that households with little land and education and belonging to disadvantaged social strata lack access to formal credit. Having a bank branch in the village or nearby distance is found to increase access and the amount borrowed. Khan, (2020) concluded that despite all these efforts and the wave of change, rural people, particularly farmers, fail to access the required amount of credit for all purposes from formal sources. Study analyzed determinants of access to agricultural credit considering amount and sources of credit. Study tested the association of accessibility with Social factors like gender, age, education, category and economic factors such as amount of income, sources of income, land holding, crop growing.

Research Gap Identification

From the study of the available literature, it has come to the fore that the most of the studies focused on the availability of the credit, requirement of the credit, disparity in the distribution of the credit, its usage pattern and repayment of the bank loan, which shows the supply side of the credit at large. But there are very few studies available about the demand side of the credit and there are very less numbers of the studies are available on the Small Farmers Access to Credit in study area. And no specific study is available on the comparison of this in Tribal and non Tribal area of Himachal Pradesh.

In Himachal Pradesh More than eight lakh farmers cultivate about 10 lakh hectares of land with an average operational land holding of 1.2 hectares. Chamba Distt. of Himachal Pradesh has 51,959 Cultivators who depended on agriculture out of total workers of 294,035. It is about to 10 percent. 93.04 percent population of the Chamba Distt. who reside in the rural area are directly or indirectly associated with agriculture. In Chamba Distt. total 20000 families out of 70000 families having Kisan Credit Card who are availing loan from this (Amar Ujala 2022). This study will help us to understand the factor responsible for the Small farmer's access to the institutional credit. Source of Borrowing and cost of borrowing, utilisation and effect of credit and credit problems faced by the small farmers from two different geographical areas, tribal area and non tribal area of Chamba (H.P.)

Objective of the study

1. To find out source and amount of borrowing from different sources both institutional and non institutional.

2. To estimate/ study the cost and term of borrowing including collateral.
3. To examine the utilisation and effect of credit on farmers income.
4. To quantify the factors influencing the access to the credit from different sources.
5. To identity the problems faced by the farmers in accessing credit and policy measures to overcome these problems.

Proposed Methodology

For accomplishing the objective of the study, both primary data and secondary data will be used. The secondary data will be collected from the various reputed institutions/Organizations and libraries. Published documents from various concerned institutions / Organization, Journals, Research papers, RBI Bulletin, NABARD Quarterly issues, Seminar papers and various daily newspapers will classify. Data collected from different sources will be classified and analyzed with statistical tools and represented in tabulation, graphically and will interpret as per requirement.

Sampling Design

Primary Data: The study will be conducted at the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. The primary data will be collected by an interview method with the household farmers selected randomly for the study through personal contacts. Sample for the present study are households farmers who avail the agriculture credit and data will be collected with the help of a well drafted and structured questionnaire/schedule. The process of selecting the sample will be Cluster in nature. The Sample size consists of all the blocks of the district who have borrowed loans from the various institutional agencies in the study area.

For the study the adequate no of ample size will be collected from the population. Household data from both tribal and non tribal area will be collected. At the first stage Chamba district with all block will be selected objectively. Farmer households from the all blocks will be selected as per the objective of the study.

Data Base: The reference year for the primary data collection will be during 2022-23. The secondary data will be collected from 2001-02 onwards. The primary data will be collected during the year 2023-24.

Tools of Analysis

The collected data will be classified and analyzed with the help of statistical tools and techniques. Tabulation, graphical method and other necessary methods will be used to present the analysis. The data collected will be refined and validated as per the

requirement. Statistical tools namely, mean, correlation, variance, standard deviation, Chi-square test, t - test and any other technique to be used as may be necessary for analysis to accomplish the objectives.

Thesis Outline

Chapter 1:- This chapter will consist of an introduction to agricultural credit, the Indian Agriculture sector, and the Role of the Agriculture sector in India, different agriculture inputs. Agriculture credit meaning, its role and importance, credit in India-before and after independence, sources of agriculture credit , institutional credit for agriculture and allied activities, agricultural credit under five year plan period, Different committees estimate agriculture. Socio economic aspects of farmers and agriculture. Agriculture in Himachal Pradesh, agriculture credit in Himachal Pradesh, access of credit by the farmers. Significance of the study, objective of the study, hypothesis of the study, methodology, scope and limitation of the study and organization of the study.

Chapter 2:- This Chapter will review the existing literature related to the study. It will be categorized under different headings:

- Studies related to the Agriculture Sector and Credit as input.
- Studies related to the source of borrowing, cost of borrowing and amount of borrowing and term of borrowing by the farmers.
- Studies related to the utilisation and effect of the credit on economic status of farmer.
- Studies related to the factors influencing the access the credit by the farmer.

Chapter 3:- This Chapter will consist of research methodology portion of the study.

Chapter 4:- This Chapter will deal with socio economic profile of study area i.e. Chamba district. It includes location, area and administrative division, population, sources of irrigation, irrigation facilities, area under principal crops and land holdings.

Chapter 5:- This chapter will discuss the result analysis of the data collected.

Chapter 6:- This chapter will discuss the conclusion and suggestions portion.

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CERTIFICATE

(SYNOPSIS APPROVAL CERTIFICATE)

This is to certify that the Synopsis/Revised Synopsis for Ph.D. Thesis titled, "**Small Farmers Access to Credit: A Comparative Study of Tribal and Non Tribal Households of Chamba (H.P.)",** submitted by Mr. Vijay Kumar to the Career Point University, Hamirpur (H.P.), India in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in the Department of Commerce and Management, School of Business and Management Studies has been approved by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) after an Oral Examination of the student on dated 21st December, 2022.

Dr. Karan Thakur
Assistant Professor Department of Commerce and Management

(Supervisor)

Research Advisory Committee

Dr. Sushil Chauhan
Assistant Professor
Department of Commerce and Management

(Member)

Dr. Sanjay Thakur
Professor
Department of Commerce and Management

(Member)

Dr. Rakesh Kumar
Assistant Professor
Department of Law, Art and Humanities

(Member)

Dr. Karan Thakur
(Head)

Department of Commerce and Management
School of Business and Management Studies

Dr. Kuldeep Kumar
Associate Professor
Department of Chemistry
Director R&D